Health facility in rural areas, slums and unauthorised colonies

2041. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after 60 years of independence, health facility in rural areas, slums and unauthorized colonies are not provided as per the guidelines of WHO because of reluctance of the qualified medical professionals to go to such areas;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Central or State Governments have any programmes to involve the registered medical unqualified practitioners to provide basic health facilities and to run national programmes after providing the basic training to them;

(d) if not, whether Government will take any initiative in this direction involving RMPs to solve the problem; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) The Government is aware of the non availability of adequate number of qualified medical professionals in rural areas. Medical officers/specialists/trained health care providers are reluctant to serve in far flung remote areas, the reasons being lack of support system in these areas. Health being a State subject, recruitment and posting of health personnel in health care institutions are the responsibility of the respective State Government. However, this Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has been advising the State Governments from time to time to see to it that vacancies are filled up on priority basis.

(c) to (e) At present, there is no such proposal under consideration of the Central Government. As regards the State Government (s), no information is maintained.

Occupational therapy graduates

2042. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has introduced/contemplating to introduce a Bill to degrade the grade of physiotherapy and occupational therapy graduates;

(b) if so, the reasons, for degrading the grade of PT/OT graduates;

(c) whether Government will treat PT/OT graduates at par with MBBS graduates as compared to those in the developed nations;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons behind such discrimination, when they complete a $4^{1}/_{2}$ years degree course; and

(e) why there is no National Council for PT and OT like MCI and Dental Council of India?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has introduced the Paramedical and Physiotherapy Central Council Bill, 2007 during the current session of Parliament. There is no such provision in the Bill to grade PT and OT graduates.

(c) and (d) Physiotherapy/OT is a medically directed therapy. Physiotherapists/OT couldn't be the first contact persons for treatment of patients and it has to be administered